

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-08 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00
EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15
USIA-06 SAJ-01 ISO-00 /124 W
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R 252310Z FEB 77
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2542
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 0543

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UN
SUBJ: UNGA DISARMAMENT: VIEWS ON SPECIAL SESSION PREPCOM ISSUES

REF: A. USUN 373; B. USUN 465

1. LEADING WESTERN EAST EUROPEAN, AND NONALIGNED DELEGATIONS
ARE BEGINNING TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE
AT UPCOMING FIRST MEETING OF SPECIAL SESSION PREPCOM MARCH 28 -
APRIL 1, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION, ELECTION OF OFFICERS,
RULES OF PROCEDURE, CREATION OF SUBCOMMITTEES, AND
SECRETARIAT SUPPORT. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES VIEWS EMERGING
FROM RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH AUSTRALIAN, AUSTRIA, BELGIAN,
FRENCH, ITALIAN, NORWEGIAN, SOVIET, UK, AND YUGOSLAV DELS.
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2. PARTICIPATION. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT THE SOVIETS
AND OTHER EAST EUROPEANS INTEND TO REVIVE THEIR
CHALLENGE TO THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON THE PREPCOM
AT THIS TIME, THOUGH THEY HAVE THREATENED TO RAISE THE
ISSUE AT THE NEXT UNGA (REF A). THE NORWEGIANS AND
BELGIANS (THE FORMER UNDER PRESSURE FROM DENMARK AND

FINLAND, THE LATTER AT DUTCH INSTANCE) HAVE URGED THAT THE WESTERN GROUP TAKE THE LEAD IN PROPOSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF INTERESTED NON-MEMBERS IN PREPCOM ACTIVITIES, SHORT OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE. NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTY IS ANTICIPATED ON THIS SUBJECT, EVEN THOUGH THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE LIKELY TO BENEFIT PRIMARILY THE WEST AND THE SOVIET BLOC -- I.E., THE "CONSERVATIVES."

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. ELECTION OF ARGENTINE PERMREP ORTIZ DE ROZAS AS PREPCOM CHAIRMAN IS NOW GENERALLY ASSUMED AS AN UNCONTESTED CERTAINTY. AS FOR REST OF PREPCOM BUREAU, YUGOSLAVS ARE REPORTEDLY ADVOCATING THREE VICE-CHAIRMEN AND ONE RAPPORTEUR, SUPPLEMENTED EVENTUALLY BY CHAIRMEN AND REPPORTEURS OF ANY SUBCOMMITTEES THAT ARE ESTABLISHED. THEY HAVE FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT ONE VICE-CHAIRMAN BE WESTERN, ONE EAST EUROPEAN, AND THE THIRD NONALIGNED -- SPECIFICALLY, YUGOSLAVIA (EVEN THOUGH IT IS A MEMBER OF THE UN EAST EUROPEAN GROUP). WHETHER THIS FORMULA WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO AFRICANS AND ASIANS IS OPEN TO QUESTION, BUT SOVIETS HAVE IN ANY EVENT DECLARED THEMSELVES IN FAVOR OF A TEN-MEMBER BUREAU (I.E., EIGHT VICE-CHAIRMEN). SOME WESTERN DELS ALSO APPEAR INCLINED TOWARD THE TEN-MEMBER SOLUTION, THOUGH NONE CONSIDER THE ISSUE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

4. WITHIN WESTERN GROUP, NORWAY HAS ALL BUT FORMALLY ANNOUNCED ITS CANDIDACY FOR A VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP; NO OTHERS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST TO DATE. COMMENT: NORWAY IS REPRESENTED HERE BY A STRONG AND CAPABLE DELEGATION
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WITH WHICH WE HAVE GOOD RELATIONS AND WHICH WE BELIEVE COULD EFFECTIVELY REPRESENT WESTERN INTERESTS. END COMMENT.

5. RULES OF PROCEDURE. DELEGATES FROM ALL GROUPS AGREE AS AN ARTICLE OF FAITH THAT, IF THE RESULTS ARE TO BE AT ALL MEANINGFUL, THE SPECIAL SESSION'S WORK AS WELL AS THAT OF THE PREPCOM MUST BE BASED ON THE BROADEST POSSIBLE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJOR POWERS AND ESPECIALLY THE US AND USSR. HOWEVER, JUDGMENTS VARY ON THE BEST MEANS OF CODIFYING THIS PRINCIPLE. THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE REJECTED IDEA OF A FORMAL CONSENSUS RULE, EVEN FOR THE PREPCOM; WHILE THEY PROFESS A DESIRE TO AVOID DECISION-MAKING BY VOTE THEY ARE UNWILLING TO RENOUNCE THE OPTION ALTOGETHER. THE SOVIETS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE TAKEN A STRONG STAND IN FAVOR OF A FORMAL COMMITMENT TO OPERATE BY CONSENSUS. MOST WESTERN DELEGATIONS, WHILE SUPPORTING CONSENSUS IN PRINCIPLE, APPEAR WILLING TO SETTLE FOR AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD BE SOMETHING LESS THAN A FORMAL RULE. INTEREST TENDS TO FOCUS ON THE IDEA OF

A DECLARATORY POLICY DECISION BY THE PREPCOM ASSERTING THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO REACH COMMON AGREEMENT AND THAT VIEWS NOT ENJOYING SUCH AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REFLECTED SEPARATELY. ALL WESTERN DELS AGREE THAT, WHATEVER FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO KEEP PRESSURE ON THE NONALIGNED TO MAINTAIN A MODERATE AND REALISTIC APPROACH AND TO POINT OUT THE POTENTIAL COSTS OF ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE UNACCEPTABLE POSITIONS AND ACTIONS ON THE MAJOR POWERS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 0543

6. CREATION OF SUBCOMMITTEES. WESTERN DELEGATIONS APPEAR GENERALLY TO AGREE THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY AT SOME POINT TO SET UP SUBCOMMITTEES OR WORKING GROUPS TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL SESSION AND TO BEGIN PREPARATION OF ITS FINAL DOCUMENTS. HOWEVER, THERE IS DOUBT ABOUT THE WISDOM AND PROPRIETY OF AGREEING AT THE MARCH MEETING, AS THE YUGOSLAVS PROPOSE (REF B), TO THE IMMEDIATE CREATION OF THREE SUBCOMMITTEES CHARGED RESPECTIVELY WITH DEVELOPMENT OF A POLITICAL DECLARATION, ELABORATION OF A PROGRAM OF ACTION, AND EXAMINATION OF

ORGANIZATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES. NO DELEGATION HAS SPECIFICALLY OBJECTED TO THIS STRUCTURE, AND SOME HAVE NOTED MERITS IN IT FROM THE WESTERN POINT OF VIEW, IN THAT IT AVOIDS PROMINENT TREATMENT OF THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFIDENTIAL

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MENT CONFERENCE QUESTION AND DOWNPLAYS THE ISSUE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. NONETHELESS, SEVERAL, INCLUDING THE BRITISH, BELGIANS, AND NORWEGIANS, HAVE EXPRESSED RELUCTANCE TO RATIFY THIS ORGANIZATION OF WORK SO EARLY, PARTICULARLY IN ADVANCE OF THE SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL VIEWS ON AGENDA AND OTHER ISSUES, DUE TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON APRIL 15.

7. SOME INTEREST HAS BEEN EXPRESSED, AS AN ALTERNATIVE, IN A DECISION AT THE MARCH MEETING TO CREATE A SINGLE SUBCOMMITTEE TO WORK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPECIAL SESSION'S AGENDA. THIS SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD CONVENE DURING THE MAY PREPCOM AND, ONCE THE AGENDA IS DEVELOPED, RECOMMEND FURTHER ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (I.E., ADDITIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES) TO FACILITATE WORK ON THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE AGENDA.

8. THE SOVIETS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY WILL OPPOSE ANY EARLY DECISION ON CREATION OF SUBCOMMITTEES. THEY REGARD THIS A SUBSTANTIVE MATTER THAT SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED UNTIL THE MAY PREPCOM AT THE EARLIEST. COMMENT. THE SOVIETS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY AS AWARE AS WESTERN DELEGATIONS OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROGRAM PROPOSED BY YUGOSLAVIA FOR THEIR OBSESSIVE PROJECT, THE WDC, AND MAY HOPE TO GAIN TIME TO LOBBY FOR MORE PROMINENT TREATMENT OF THAT ISSUE. END COMMENT.

9. SECRETARIAT SUPPORT. THE BRITISH HAVE SUGGESTED THAT WESTERN DELEGATIONS PRESS THE SECRETARIAT TO HIRE AT LEAST ONE WESTERNER TO FILL THE CONSULTANT POSITIONS AUTHORIZED LAST FALL IN CONNECTION WITH SPECIAL SESSION PREPARATIONS. (ASSISTANT SYG BJORNERSTEDT HAS TOLD US AND OTHERS THAT NO HIRING WILL TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF EXPECTED SECRETARIAT SUPPORT BECOMES CLEAR.) WE HAVE NOT YET HEARD OF ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR STUDIES OR REPORTS TO BE PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT, THOUGH IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE NONALIGNED WILL MAKE SUCH PROPOSALS AT THE MARCH MEETING. SHERER

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